

A  
REPLY  
TO 780. b.  
*John Colebatch,*  
Upon his Late  
PIECE,  
CONCERNING  
The Curing the Biting of  
a Viper by Acids.

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By Charles Leigh, Doctor of Physicks.

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L O N D O N ,

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# To the Reader.

IT is not in my Nature to treat any of the Faculty of Physick, as perhaps you may find in the following Lines, nor had I now done it, had not the Affronts offer'd upon all Societies of Learning, and Physicians, commanded it: For indeed, when all Mankind, except those that treat in his unwarrantable Paths, are blackn'd with the odious Characters of Fraud and Ignorance, in this Case what Returns cou'd be made? From those Aspensions we must either quit our selves, (and if so, I'm sure when we retort upon him, 'tis as impossible to give a true Account of the Pretender, without some Sting of Satyr, as to describe the Fury of a Lion, without describing his hideous Yells, and unmerciful Talons,) or else we must submit to his wild Notions; and if so, it's then evident we are the worst of Men, and merit not the Characters of Physicians. Wherefore to set things in their proper Light, that the true Air of the Spark may be taken to the Life, I cou'd not but intermix frequent Shadows to screen his infatuating and alluring Beams, least these should lead us into farther Errors. But methinks he of all Persons had the

## To the Reader.

I cast Reason to Quarrel with Eminent and Regular Physicians, (who I doubt not may challenge equal Fame with the most Learned in the World,) that be, I say, who like a Soland Goose, can but challenge an Equivocal Generation, (for as one from the Plank, so the other dropp'd from the Mortar,) shou'd trample on Mankind, is not a vulgar Prodigy, and therefore commanded a Return accordingly. I do protest I have no personal Prejudice against him, for as yet I never saw the Man, and so could have no premeditated Quarrel: But when I saw such False and Dangerous Positions transmitted to Posterity, and the rest of my Brethren so horribly black'd, I thought it high time, in Justice to Mankind, and our own Vindication, to put a Stop to this impetuous Torrent.

The Doctrine of Acids hath from the Egyptians, Arabick, Grecian, German, Italian, and French Physicians, been transmitted to us as of great use in Physick, when proper Symptoms indicate, but never, till now, made a Panacea, but indeed the Cause of too many Distempers, as may be observed in the Exercitationes Quinque, lately printed at Oxford, and the ensuing Lines; wherefore I shall not recapitulate, but to those referr the Curious. As these are not writ for any other Intent, but for the true Information of Matters, to the present and succeeding Ages, if they have this Effect, it is the utmost of my Ambition; for as for my part, I would neither be cramp'd with the Doctrine

## To the Reader.

Erine of Acid, or Alkali, since a Physician that confines himself to those Two, resigns up his Liberty of Thiking, and shuts himself up in a Pinfold. The Faculty of Phyfick is of far greater extent; wherfore I could wish my Brethren wou'd apply themselves to the true Knowledge of Experimental Learning in all its several Branches, then they will easily see how Insufficient these Two are to explain all the Phænomena of Nature: But till this be done with the utmost Application, we cannot expect any considerable Improvement in that Faculty. But, alas! we are too prone to crowd our Heads with a Landskip of it in a voluminous Theory, take Matters upon Trust, and never examine into the true nature of Things: And whilst Matters are thus manag'd, we give too just Reasons to our Adversaries to calumniate us; for indeed only knowing Phyfick at this rate, is but like writing an Account of a Country by superficial Glances o'er some Map or other, and so perhaps by that Method form some unpolish'd Idea's of the Shell, but never penetrate the Kernel. I will not now trespass farther upon your Patience, but subscribe my self,

Your Humble Servant,

C. L.

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To

To the most noted Pretender, in  
answer to those to the most unknown  
*Colebatch*, upon his several Tracts.

What! Shall we still be tortur'd with the Tool?  
A Dull, Amphibious, yet Aspiring Fool!  
Shall his ill Notions still the *Codrus* be?  
And Truth in obscure Shades still masked lie?  
Awake my Muse, and now thy Choler vent  
On him, of Nonsense but the Sediment.  
*Physick*, before thy wicked *Thesis* came  
Abroad abortive, had a glorious Name;  
But since thy sour Chimera's took their Birth,  
A wild Destruction hovers o'er the Earth:  
But, Heaven be prais'd! too well we Mortals see,  
Not by Diseases, but we die by thee.  
If with thy vappy Lines we did but join,  
Sure was our Fate, as Infamy is thine.  
He like a Fool attempts the gilded Oar,  
We grasp'd at *Juno*, but a gloomy Shower  
We caught, a Cheat the like ne'er known before.  
Let then the Quack raise his Olympick Dust,  
And 'gainst *Apollo*'s Sons his Venom cast:  
With Scorn they laugh but at his easie Dart,  
Nor whilst he writes he only feels the Smart.  
Thy nauseous Poet is to me unknown,  
But sure of *Grubstreet* an accomplish'd Son.  
Do then but once allow Mankind to think,  
And let *Lethean* Streams compose the Ink  
That writ those Lines, this Happiness we have,  
We shall not then die Martyrs to the Grave.  
I'll therefore now dispatch thy injur'd Muse,  
And in rough Prose the Emp'rick accuse.

Worthy

*Worthy SIR,*

WITH all the Tenderness imaginable I accost you, for tho' you stile your self a Member of the College, yet since I find you such a weak one, and so thoroughly before confuted, and since these last Squeaks you make are only with your baffl'd Forces begging Quarter, shall fairly examine what you hive urg'd afresh in this Treatise, and had you not again asserted an universal Regimen of *Acids*, the Owl should have perch'd sole Monarch in his Crab-Tree : Wherefore I shall begin with your Experiments of the Viper ; but before I enter upon it, be pleas'd to let me return up-on you the Expression of that most inge-nious Lady, *A. B.*

‘ That Reason was the Eternal Stan-dard, which God Almighty, as a Ray of

‘ of his own Image, hath impressed on  
 ‘ Man, to the election or dislike of what  
 ‘ may hurt or succour him, and where  
 ‘ this is rais’d and improv’d, makes him  
 ‘ an Angel; but where sunk and depreſſ’d,  
 ‘ a groveling Brute.

Now, Sir, if upon Examination of the whole Matter, you be forced to sink to the lowest Ebb of Reason, it will then from this follow, you are but the Monkey of her most ingenious Father, or that long ear’d Animal that never spoke but once to *Baalam*.

In the first Pages of your Treatise, you give us an Account of one *Philipson* that was bit by a Viper, and of giving *Acids*, as *Elixir Vitrioli*, in the beginning of the Distemper. Now by the bye, let me tell you, that if *Elixir Vitrioli* be truly prepar’d, it cannot properly be called an *Acid*, but rather a *Neutral Spirit*; in that Preparation a *Vinous Spirit* and an *Acid* being strictly united, and so consequently not purely an *Acid*: That which is prepar’d by *Vigani*, which I take to be the best I have any where seen, will scarce ferment.

ferment with an *Alkali*; so that the first Prescription no ways corroborates your Notion of *Acids*, tho' it is true, from a Mixture of that, and Spirit of Harts-horn, will quickly arise Clouds; and the same may be observed by holding them close together, tho' in distinct Vials; but the Motion in the Mixture of the Liquors is scarce discernible, whence it is plain the *Acid* produced not those Effects in the Bite of the Viper, by so powerfully destroying the *Alkali's*.

Your next Prescription I find to be *Elixir Vitrioli* 3ij, *Rectify'd Spirit of Wine* two Ounces. Now, Sir, it is most certain the Points of the *Acid* in this Prescription are so sheathed in the *Vinous* Spirit, that a greater Corrector of *Acids* cannot be thought of; for Spirit of Nitre it self we find by this Method to become a safe and good Medicine, by destroying the *Acid*: Whence it's plain, what was effected by this Medicine, cou'd not be by its *acidity*, that being destroyed before by the Mixture. Your next Prescriptions are *Infusions of Rue, Snakeweed, Angelica,*

lica, Butter-bur, &c. Which from the ancient Physicians to these very Days, have always been found to have been Alexipharmacæ or Counter-poysons, and in those Cases used with success: Must therefore a little Addition of White-wine and Vinegar, which is what J. C. adds, be the Specifick? or the noble Herbs before recited? If the latter, by the same Reason I might as well argue, that if I happen'd to give an acid Spirit with the *Cortex* in intermitting Fevers, the Cure was not compleated by the *Cortex* but the *Acid*, which I think none but Colebatch will affirm; and if so, the *Acids* contributed no farther here, perhaps than to allay the Heat of the Patient; for I am pretty well satisfy'd, no Man that considers what a powerful Diaphoretick Snake-weed is, and consequently fine's the Blood, and how again *Acids* fix it; I say, no Man in his Senses that considers these things, can affirm their Virtues to consist in acidity, but quite contrary in *oleaginous*, *alkalious* Particles; and if so, it's plain that *Acids* little or nothing contributed

to

to the Cure in the recited Case: For did the Virtues of these Sudorificks consist in an *Acidity*, how comes it to pass? Those which are really *Acids*, as Spirit of Vitriol, Sulphur, and the vegetable *Acids*, as *Luzula*, *Berberis*, &c. are not Diaphoreticks. Since then the Virtue of the recited Herbs consists in the Evacuations they make in the miliary Glands by Sweat, it's plain what is effected by them must be by their *oleaginous* and *volatile* Particles, which may by due Preparations be prepar'd from all of them. — Since their Oils are Diaphoretical, and their *Acids*, if they have any, quite contrary, must we then because those Plants contain an *Acid* which is not Diaphoretical, and an Oil which is, conclude the Virtue of the Plant consists in the Oil or the *Acid*? If in the latter, because at the same time the *Goa* Stone, or *Bezoar*, and Juice of Limons to acidulate as Jujips are prescrib'd, does it thence follow because an *Acid* is only added to alleviate Thirst, the Cure was effected by the *Bezoardick* or the *Acids*? If with the latter,

ter, he may as well tell me because the Grand Signior constantly drinks Sherbet, and Coffee, eats all the Delicacies of the Eastern Countries, as Pine-Apples, Partridge, Mutton, Venison, &c. is not nourished by that generous Food, but with a little Vinegar which happen'd to be mix'd with the Sauce. As for my part, I neither pity nor envy J. C. For as no Emulation of him can be an Object of my Ambition, so his wilful and elaborate Ignorance cannot merit the former: With what an unparalleld Impudence then does he brow-beat the whole Body of Physicians, and in plain Terms makes them all Knaves or ignorant Pretenders! But, God be thank'd, the World by a large Experience hath sufficiently found the contrary, which is the best Demonstration against an ignorant Pretender.

He tells in one place, he never was a Member of the University, and in that I veryreadily believe him; and I am sure, had he never been a Member of the College, it had added to the Honour of the Faculty of Physick. His Reasonings against Le-

mery are as rude as empty, for in the biting of Vipers it's certain there is a sudden Coagulation of the Blood; and if so, the Poison cannot proceed from Volatile, Alkalious Salts, since by a Mixture of those with the Blood, it is certain the Blood is always more fluid, and prevented from Coagulation: And if so, J. C's Notion falls to the Ground.

What then is become of that Ray of Reason God Almighty imprinted into him? I am sure, to abuse that, and transmit false Notions down to Posterity, is a Wickedness unaccountable, and deserves a severer Punishment than the Statutes of a College can inflict.

And I speak it without Prejudice, he is much fitter for a Bar than a Patient; wherefore I shall dismiss him upon this Point, and proceed to his other Particulars; and to use his own words, how Heathen Greek may sound to him, I know not, for I think he is as much an Heathen as a Græcian; but *Currat Lex*, would be a just Motto upon him.

‘ Pag. 22. I believe I may boldly say  
 ‘ it is the best and clearest Hypothesis in  
 ‘ Physick now Extant, and upon the  
 ‘ Foundation of which a Man may with  
 ‘ the greater Certainty attempt the Cure  
 ‘ of most Diseases, than upon any other  
 ‘ that hath yet been made publick.

If this be so, I wonder the President resigns him, not his Chair, since here is not only a bold Defiance to that Society, but to all others whatever. But the shallowest Brooks run loudest, and the Puny Mouse is the Off-spring of a Mountain.

In his Answer to Dr. *Tutbill*, pag. 23.  
 ‘ I have a greater Esteem for you than  
 ‘ those Scoundrels that have heretofore  
 ‘ appeared in Print against me.

If you esteem me one of them, I thank you for your Complement, for be assured it’s the greatest Favour you cou’d do me, for shou’d he, that upon trifling, and false Notions had imposed upon all Societies of Learning, and arrogated to himself a Knowledge above all Mankind, and at the same time but a meer Pretender, have treated me in another Dialect,

it

it might perhaps have call'd in Question all the little Learning I dare pretend to; for when I consider the wonderful Works of Nature, I am far from Dogmatical Assertions, but only in my own Judgment offer the most probable Conjectures.

‘ Pag. 24. And in very many Consumptive Cases it is usual for the Patient to spit up perfect Chalk, and that in great Quantities.

‘ In what Consumptive Cases? In none that I have yet met with, but the Spitting has been either Sweet, Acid, Austere, Bitter, or Putrid; none of which are Indications of Chalk: But suppose such Chalky Matter was sometimes lodg'd in the Lungs, when the Stone or Gout is concomitant, it's plain then from the Arguments before recited by Dr. Coward, and those in the Exercitationes quinque, that the Blood in that Case is degenerated into too Saline a Crisis, and Precipitates too great a quantity of Alkali from the Blood, which indeed makes a kind of Magistery. By which it is plain the Blood in those Cases abounds more

with Acid than Alkalious Particles, and I am sure the truest Method in those Distempers is either by Alkalious or Balsamic Medicines.

What a Wickedness therefore must it be in John Calbatch, to impose such Dangerous Practice upon Mankind, which I am certain can centre in nothing but the Ruin of the Patient? For I dare Challenge him to produce one Instance, in a confirm'd Consumption, where he recover'd the Patient purely by Acids. How do you make out in Consumptive Persons the Sweat to be Alkalions? Their Tasts are manifestly Saline, their Smells frequently like those of the steams of Vinegar, which, if I am in my Senses, are no Indications of Alkalies, but presume Sense and Reason are as much strangers to J.C. as his Scribbling to Physick and Philosophy. 'Peg. 34. He runs down Pulv. & Chel. & Comp. & Sp. C. & C. in Malignant Fevers, and afterwards affirms, if after the Exhibition of them any thing was done, Nature it self deserves the whole Honour, nothing in the

The least being to be ascribed to the Medicine. In Answer to this, I averr, that the last Winter I was concern'd with 300 Persons in Pestilential Fevers, of these there were not six that dy'd, which upon Occasion I can make out, and constantly used the *Pulv.* & *Cbet.* *Goa Stone*, and frequently *Sp. C. C.* And surely the Recovery of so many cou'd not wholly be attributed to Nature: I used *Acids* very temperately, just to allay their Thirst, but found that of themselves, without the Assistance of *Akali*, they only suffer'd the Patient to sink insensibly. Which I think may serve as an Answer to that Point, and not let Mankind be so miserably abus'd by such Spurious Notions.

*Pag. 41, 42, 43.* You assert the Life of Man is a Flame, and that because the *Phosphorus* is a Thing may be obtain'd from all Animal Substances, and that by stroaking the Back of a Cat in the dark, multitudes of small flashes of Fire will follow ones Hand.

Certainly such an Inference was never made before; and if Transmigration of

Souls be true, here is the clearest Demonstration of it: So that now nothing less perhaps than the Life of a Man has taken its flight to the Cat's Back, and since so far ought I know, the Cat, instead of Catterwauling, may Argue as well as Colbatch, that so freely gave Life to her Half Moons with no less than that of a Rational Creature. By your Favour, Sir, because the *Phosphorus* can be extracted from all Animals, does it thence follow, the Life is in that? By the same Reason I may as well Argue the Life to consist in *Alkalies*, since according to your own Concessions those may be abundantly prepar'd from all Animals; and if so, what then becomes of the Doctrine of *Acids*? For then to Attack these with sharp-pointed *Acids*, woud be little less than Cutting of Throats. In what particularly Life consists, I presume Mankind, without blushing, may fairly own their Ignorance; but an Ignorant Pretender will attempt any thing, and prove nothing. How do you make out in a living Animal the *Phosphorus* is actually contain'd in the Blood,

Blood, since from the Blood and Urine of Animals it is only prepared by Putrefaction; but this Notion I confess may help the Quaker out at a dead lift, he easily now may tell us, what he means by the Light within him. ' Pag. 51. I  
 ' never cou'd see or hear of any one that  
 ' bath seen any such thing as either Ko-  
 ' latile or fixt Alkalifare Salt, that was  
 ' any other way to be obtain'd out of  
 ' Vegerable or Mineral Bodies, than from  
 ' the Bodies after they had been calcin'd.  
 And who can help invincible Ignorance?  
 For had you consulted Monsieur *du Clos*,  
 of the Mineral Waters in *France*, or the  
*Tentamen Novum* of the Mineral Waters  
 in *Lancashire*, or the *Philosophical Tran-*  
*sactions* Printed about Twelve Years ago,  
 you might in all these have found a large  
 Description of Natural Alkalifare Salts,  
 that were not made by Calcination, ei-  
 ther of Mineral or Vegetable Bodies, and  
 so consequently not as you term them,  
 the Excrements of Fire; but I think your  
 self may be very well stiled *Inser Sacra-*  
*ticos notissima fossa Cinædos.*

' Pag.

Pag. 52. I think it may not be amiss  
 to infer, that the Alkali to be found in  
 Animal Substances, is the Excitements  
 of their Fire.

Did ever any but a Lunatick lay down  
 such a Position? For were the Alkali of  
 the Blood prepared by Conflagration,  
 there must then in that, as in Plants, be  
 a total Dissolution of its whole Compa-  
 ges, and consequently there wou'd be no  
 such thing as a Living Animal. It's plain  
 the Alkalious Parts of the Blood are sepa-  
 rated from it by proper Glandules, for the  
 most part, as in the Liver and Reins, and  
 not prepared by Conflagration. But he  
 that can affirm such Absurdities as these,  
 may assert any thing, and may if he please  
 affirm there never was any such thing as  
 a Shadow made by the Gnomon of a Dial.  
 But Logicians tell us, *Contra Principia ne-*  
*gantem non est disputandum*; wherefore  
 my Patience being quite tyr'd out in that  
 Point, I dismiss him.

Pag. 64. How do you make out, Al-  
 kalies make the Serum of the Blood Gel-  
 atinous, since in Blood-letting, by mixing  
 Alkalies.

*Alkalies* with the Blood, we observe it to be made more fluid, which cou'd not be, did *Alkalies* turn the Blood to a Gelly? In Pag. 70. How does it appear it is the *Acid* part of the Sulphur that ferments with an *Acid*, but rather the *Oleaginous* Particles, since were it the former, Spirit of Sulphur wou'd ferment with Spirit of Sulphur, which is both false and absurd; and a true Brat of Colebatch's Genius. If it is not the *Acid* of the Sulphur that ferments with the *Acid*, what you offer is trifling and ridiculous, and no Answer at all to Dr. Tuthill's Objection. Nor do you any ways make it appear the Virtues of Bitters consist in an *Acid*, which till you fairly do, you still stand charg'd with those Objections: Bitterness in Plants I don't apprehend to consist either in a predominancy of *Alkali* or *Acid*, but in a particular Mixture of different Bodies, which by Calcination, or Distillation is destroy'd; so that no Preparation from a bitter Plant will by any such Method, (viz.) Distillation or Calcination, ever answer the Virtue of the Vegetable; so that what he alledges

alleges in relation to the *Acids of Bitters*,  
is nothing to the Matter.

*Guaiacum, Sassafras, and Bitters*, you af-  
fert to be envelop'd *Acids*; but pray if it  
be in you Nature to think, is it by the  
*Acids* in these, the Scurvy, Inflammatory,  
and Venereal Distempers are cur'd, or by  
their *Terebinthinate and Batfamick Par-*  
*ticles*.

To affirm the former, you may with  
the same parity of Reason affirm, *Mercur-  
ius Dulcis* not by its Saline Particles makes  
that Alteration in the Mass of Blood,  
which no Man I suppose will Assert that  
understands the Nature of Sublimation; but  
indeed the Saline Particles being sheath'd  
in the Mercurial ones, they by that  
means become a safe Medicine, and by  
their obtunded Points may help to incide  
the Viscid Humours, and by that means  
make room for the Mercurial Particles  
united with them; but then the Cure is  
not to be attributed to the *Acids* as such,  
but the *Alkalions* Particles conjoyn'd: So  
that if it is this you mean by your 'enve-  
lop't *Acids*, you may as well tell me a  
Wound

Wound may be as easily made by the Sword in the Scabbard, as what Cures you attributed to envelop'd *Acids*, were effected by their *Acidity*, but indeed quite contrary by their *Balsamic Particles*.

Pray, Sir, in *Diarhoea's*, where a Person in Twenty Four hours, will sometimes have an Hundred Stools, with intolerable Gripes, and the Faces frequently clear, green, or viscid; I would gladly know whether those Humours are more highly saturated with *Acids* or *Alkalies*. If with the latter, how comes it to pass, that in the *West-Indies*, where that Distemper is most frequent, Chalk is found to be a certain Specifick? In the like Case, the Honourable Mr. Boyle, highly applauds *Lapis Calaminaris*, which is a most Potent Alkali. Now in these Cases were the Blood so highly saturated with *Alkalies* as you mention, the giving of these wou'd be only to add Oyl to a Flame, and raise the Distemper the higher; but the quite contrary Effects are found from them: Wherefore once more scratch your Abortive Noddle, and give a full Answer to these two Instances.

What Physician of Note ever rejected the prudent use of *Acids*? But what makes that to Illustrate our Hypothesis? Were the Cures perfected by *Acids*? If not, as I'm sure they were not, what you urge is impertinent.

‘ Pag.

' Pag. 86, 86. Bittern is the most Corrodient  
' fixt Alkali in Nature.

Under Favour, Sir, you are mistaken; for were it so great an Alkali, it wou'd ferment with any Acid, but will not with any but Oyl of Vitriol; and if so, it is not so great an Alkali as you make it. Till you Answer the Arguments alledg'd by Dr. Coward and my self against you, for my part, I think not my self oblig'd to take any further notice of your undigested Scribble, but to give a full and clear Answer to those Arguments, Challenge you and your whole Party, otherwise I think it much safer to Practice upon Establish'd Principles, than the Enthusiastick Notions of a Rambling Empirick.

Sir, with a little loss of Time, I have given you a Reply to your last Performances, and tremble to think of your designed Treatise of Fevers; you have had already sufficient Revenge upon the Thinking part of Mankind: VVherefore, good Sir, Murder us not afresh, but if you have any Grains of Compassion, stop your Hand, and as you are Stout, be Merciful, lest by your Erecting these Castles in the Air, you give the VWorld too just Reason to wish the same Punishment may be inflicted upon you, as one of the *Russian* Emperors did upon an Engineer, who because he had built such an awkward Fortress, order'd both his Eyes to be pull'd out, that neither he himself might make, nor direct others to do the like.

